

a number of conversations with Senator McCONNELL this afternoon. It appears, at this stage, we have a path toward completing our work next week. We are going to move forward with the Agriculture appropriations bill this evening. We will be on that tonight and tomorrow, and it will be open for amendments. It appears, on that matter, we will either have a vote after 5 o'clock on Monday on final passage or on cloture on that appropriations bill.

Tuesday, we will move to the Supreme Court nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor. I haven't had a chance to talk with the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee. With their approval, we will move to that matter on Tuesday.

We will set a time certain to vote on cloture on the Travel Promotion Act. We need a time certain because, as everyone knows, Senator MIKULSKI is in the hospital now having repair work done on her leg as a result of a fall. We will set that time. And there may be some nominations we will need to deal with.

At this stage, I think that is where we are headed. There will be no votes tonight or tomorrow. It appears the next vote will be Monday afternoon. I have spoken to Senator KOHL and Senator BROWNBACK, and they agree on the appropriations bill that is the way to move forward. I appreciate everyone's cooperation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

ANTHONY DEJUAN BOATWRIGHT ACT

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I rise on an issue of particular importance. I am delighted Senators BURRIS and DODD are on the floor. Along with Senator CHAMBLISS, the four of us joined in a very important piece of legislation. In fact, in the gallery tonight is a lady named Jackie Boatwright, whose young son Juan, 8 years ago, was severely injured in a daycare center.

For a second, I wish to talk about the legislation we have introduced and encourage all the Members of the Senate to support it. On September 9, 2001, 2 days before the tragedy of September 11, on a Sunday morning, Mrs. Boatwright got up and took her son to daycare and went to church. On her way home, her cell phone rang. She got a call telling her that her son Juan was now in the hospital. While at the daycare center, he pulled up beside a mop bucket, bent over and fell head-first in the bucket, which was full of dirty mop water and bleach.

Juan, today, lies semicomatose in a hospital on a ventilator.

The daycare center had no liability insurance. To Mrs. Boatwright's credit, from the day of that tragedy, she has advocated on behalf of parents and young children, so that it is required they be able to know the insurance available to them to protect their children in a daycare center. I mentioned

that Senators DODD, BURRIS, CHAMBLISS, and myself have introduced legislation, which already passed the House. It requires that any daycare center receiving Federal funds from the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program must disclose, upon registration and admittance, to any child and their parents the liability coverage they have to protect that child.

Mrs. Boatwright wants to make sure that what happened to little Juan, and what happened in her life as a tragedy, never happens in the life of any other mother anywhere in America. Mrs. Boatwright is a resident of Augusta, GA. I am proud of her for the example she has set. So many citizens don't think they can make a difference. Mrs. Boatwright is taking a tragedy and making a difference for thousands of parents and children for years to come.

I am proud to encourage the Members of the Senate to help us get unanimous consent to agree with the House and pass this legislation, Juan Boatwright's legacy, the Anthony DeJuan Boatwright Act, requiring disclosure of liability insurance coverage to every parent whose child is entering daycare.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I thank my colleague from Georgia. Along with ORRIN HATCH, I am the original cosponsor of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program more than 20 years ago, the first childcare program in this country since World War II. It was a long struggle to pass that legislation. There were battles over supporting people who could not afford expensive child care—to be able to do that for working families. In those days, when we drafted the legislation, it was very hard to convince people of the importance of establishing some standards in childcare. There was a lot of resistance to it. Nonetheless, we got the bill done at minimum standards.

That bill made a huge difference in the lives of millions of people, particularly working women with young children, raising them on their own, to be able to hold down the job and make sure their child could be in a safe place. That was important. I remember talking about how we had better Federal regulations when it came to pets being cared for than we did for children. Your automobile got better care, under Federal regulations, than your child. Ultimately, that legislation became law.

Along with my colleague from Georgia, I, too, commend Mrs. Boatwright for taking on this issue, showing how one individual can change things regarding the minimum requirement that parents be informed as to whether the childcare facility has appropriate insurance. In fact, I would have presumed that was the case, even as author of the original legislation, believing that was something States would

have required, let alone Federal legislation.

We have a bill that passed the other body before us, and it makes eminently good sense to me, as someone who has been involved in this issue for 25 years, along with OLYMPIA SNOWE, from Maine, a terrific advocate for the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program.

I don't know where the objections are coming from. I am prepared to work with my colleague and say to Mrs. Boatwright and her family and others that we thank you for raising this issue. I will do whatever I can to see if we cannot get this cleared on the floor of the Senate and have it go to the President for signature. That is a small accomplishment on a major issue that can make a difference in the lives of families.

I thank my colleague from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. I thank the distinguished acting chairman of the HELP Committee for offering that assistance and assisting in the passage of this legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. BEGICH). The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NAACP 100TH ANNIVERSARY: IMAGES OF HISTORY

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise in recognition of the NAACP in this, its 100th anniversary month. I rise in praise of what this extraordinary organization has so proudly come to represent to every American who deeply believes in freedom, human dignity, and equal justice under the law.

Yet I rise with a heavy heart, filled with powerful lasting images of the unimaginable suffering surrounding the founding of this great organization, images of the savage hand of racism—horrific lynchings in the middle of the night, the 1908 race riot in Springfield, IL, the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, that led a bold band of Americans to do all they could, whatever they could, to end the violence against Blacks, the vicious, unveiled hatred and intolerance that to this day has left deep and painful scars on this Nation.

I rise in recognition of those courageous men and women who, a century ago, stepped forward to found the NAACP, those who stood against violence, who stood against hatred, Blacks such as W.E.B. Du Bois, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Mary Church Terrell, and Whites such as Mary White Ovington and Oswald Garrison Villard, descendants of America's first abolitionists. These men and women came forward, echoing the call of W.E.B. Du Bois to secure for all people the rights of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution to end slavery, provide equal justice under law, and ensure universal adult male suffrage.

We all know that the full realization of equality, freedom, civil rights, voting rights, and equal justice under law has been a long, sometimes faltering, journey fraught with dead ends, deep divides, and seemingly insurmountable obstacles on the road to a more perfect Union. It has been a journey of starts and stops, with harrowing moments—some horrific, some heart-wrenching, but all equally historic, all part of the American saga, each forever etched in the collective memory of this Nation.

The magnificent building in which we do our work today is a monument to that journey. Those who labored to raise this glorious building in tribute to American democracy were themselves slaves. They laid the foundation. They cut the stones. They raised the walls and built the magnificent dome of the U.S. Capitol. Those slaves lived here on Capitol Hill in the shadow of what is now the Statue of Freedom that looks eastward toward the rising Sun and what was then the new dawn of a rising nation.

They are, in many ways, the ancestors of Freedom herself, the precursors of an event to which we have so boldly stood witness in January, in the shadow of their labors, as a Black man raised his hand on the west front of the Capitol to take the oath of office as President of the United States. What greater tribute to them.

We may have come a long way since they built this monument to democracy, but every day, with every troubling racial incident we see on television or read about in blogs or in newspapers, it is clear the century-long work of the NAACP goes on, the work continues. But it is equally clear, with Barack Obama in the White House, we have come of age, united by a common history, tragic at times, fought on the bloody battlefields of a civil war and still being waged in the hearts of the intolerant and unenlightened among us.

Let the images of history tell the story of America plainly, honestly, for what it is—from the labors of those slaves who built this Capitol to the founding of the NAACP; from the battlefields of Gettysburg and Manassas to the freedom rides and marches through Selma and Montgomery; from bloodshed, tragedy and travails, sacrifices and sorrows from those who lived and died on plantations or rode the Underground Railroad north, to those freed by the Emancipation Proclamation; from the devastating inhumanity of slavery to the election of Barack Obama.

There are countless images of courage and heroism, humiliation and humility, honor and horror, dignity and indignity; images of hope and despair, fear and frustration; images of fire hoses and police dogs turned on Americans whose only crime was the longing to be free and equal; images still clear in our minds, triumphant images of Martin Luther King at the Lincoln Memorial, millions marching on Wash-

ington; deeply moving images of peace-loving men like Congressman John Lewis beaten down by billy clubs because he simply wanted to cross a bridge; images of abject poverty, of two worlds separate and apart and far from equal; tragic images of a great man lying in a pool of blood on a motel balcony in Atlanta in April of 1968. But none so powerful, none so deeply moving as Barack Obama taking the oath of office as President of the United States on the west front of the Capitol 41 years later.

These are the awesome images of the history of race since the founding of the NAACP. They represent the history of America as much as they represent the history of the NAACP, and we must—all of us, Black and White alike—embrace them, understand them, and learn from them; learn from the tragedy and the sorrow; learn from the long, hard-fought battle that was the civil rights movement; learn from the debate on this floor that eventually led to the Voting Rights Act; learn from the pro-segregationist terrorism that led to the assassination of NAACP Mississippi field secretary Medgar Evers and the death of Dr. King. Today, all of these images, the good as well as the bad, remain part of who we are, part of the American story in which the NAACP has played a pivotal role.

But the Nation has changed, and so the mission of the NAACP has evolved from what it was 100 years ago. The violence has lessened, but the virus of racism and prejudice has mutated, as all viruses do.

Now too often, intolerance rears its ugly head with the mere mention of the word “immigration.” And when it does, let us be comforted by the knowledge that the NAACP is still there, still working, still fighting the good fight.

Today, the NAACP is an expanded organization dedicated to the elimination of all race prejudice in America, whether that prejudice be against Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and all Americans who seek political, educational, economic, and social equality. For 100 years, the goal of the NAACP has been to tear down the walls of racial discrimination through the democratic process and make tolerance and equality a reality for all of us. Let that goal be realized in our generation, in our time, and let us continue—one nation, indivisible—on that long journey to a more perfect Union.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2997, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2997) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food

and Drug Administration, and Related Agency programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1908

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I call up the substitute amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Wisconsin [Mr. KOHL], for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK, proposes an amendment numbered 1908.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following staff have unlimited floor privileges during the consideration of the fiscal year 2010 Agriculture appropriations bill: Galen Fountain, Jessica Frederick, Dianne Nellor, Fitzhugh Elder, Stacy McBride, Phil Karsting, and Riley Scott.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KOHL. I ask unanimous consent that Bob Ross, a detailee from the Department of Agriculture to the Committee on Appropriations, and Katie Toskey, an intern on the Committee on Appropriations, be granted unlimited floor privileges during consideration of the Agriculture appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the fiscal Year 2010 appropriations bill for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration and related agencies. This bill was unanimously reported out of Committee on July 7, and I believe it is a well-balanced bill that deserves the support of all Senators.

This bill includes total spending of \$124 billion. Of that total, \$101 billion is for mandatory programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as Food Stamps, which is funded at \$61 billion, and the Child Nutrition Programs, which are funded at \$17 billion.

Discretionary spending totals \$23 billion, an increase of \$2.3 billion, and is within our 302(b) allocation. While this is a significant increase from last year, the President's request in just four areas—WIC, food and drug safety, humanitarian food assistance, and rural rental assistance—account for nearly 90 percent of the total increase. The depth and breadth of the responsibilities held by the USDA and FDA are far greater than I believe most Americans realize.

The funds in this bill are used to help ensure the most basic of human needs are met. This bill provides the funds for the two major agencies charged with keeping America's food and medical supply safe, something we nearly